

Message Text

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ACTION ITFE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 INSE-00 VOE-00

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P R 290725Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL SYDNEY

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6435

UNCLAS SYDNEY 1857

DEPT FOR IATF

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

CONGEN TODAY CONTACTED BY JAPANESE CONSUL SHIGEO YAMATO
AND TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF JAPANESE SHIPPING COMPANY
MITSUI O.S.K. LINES TO REPORT THAT A JAPANESE SHIP KENKAI
MARU WILL ARRIVE AT BRISBANE ON WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 3,
1975, WITH EIGHT VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOARD. THE
REFUGEES WERE PICKED UP AT SEA OFF COAST OF VIET NAM
ON AUGUST 10, 1975. AVAILABLE BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON VIET
NAMESE IS AS FOLLOWS:

TRAN-DAC SUOTG 23 SOLDIER

TRAN-DAC YEN 21 SOLDIER

(FIRST TWO BROTHERS)

TRUONG CUONG 20 SOLDIER

LE-VAN PHONG 17 STUDENT

NGUYEN VAN THU 18 STUDENT

DIEP-XUAN KHANH 18 STUDENT

NGUYEN- DING CHUA NGUYEN 18 STUDENT

NGUYEN-DINH CHAU LOAN 16 STUDENT

(LAST TWO SISTERS AND ONE ABOVE IS THERE COUSIN)

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED BY JAPANESE EMBASSY AND
APPARENTLY HAS MADE NO DECISION AS TO WHETHER THEY WILL BE ALLOWED

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TO LAND IN AUSTRALIA. SPECIAL PROBLEM EXISTS HERE IN THAT AFTER

TAKING ON LOAD OF WHEAT AT BRISBANE SHIP WILL THEN PROCEED BACK TO VIET NAM WITHOUT MAKING ANY VISITS TO ANY OTHER PORTS. VIET NAMESE HAVE ALL STATED THAT THEY DESIRE TO BE SENT AS REFUGEES TO FIRST PREFERENCE UNITED STATES SECOND FRANCE AND THIRD AUSTRALIA.

JAPANESE CONSUL STATED HE WAS INFORMED THAT DECISION IS ONE THAT WILL BE MADE BY MR. WHITLAM PERSONALLY.

SYDNEY BELIEVES THAT AT THIS STAGE PROBLEM IS PRIMARILY AN AUSTRALIAN PROBLEM.

THE BRISBANE CONSULATE GENERAL MAY BE APPROACHED CONCERNING THIS SINCE IT APPEARS AT LEAST ONE AND POSSIBLY MORE OF THE VIETNAMESE APPEAR TO BE QUALIFIED TO PARTICIPATE IN UNITED STATES INDO-CHINESE REFUGEE PROGRAM, I.E. DIEP XUAN KHANH. SYDNEY ALSO BELIEVES THAT WE SHOULD NOT MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AT THIS TIME SINCE THIS MIGHT BE INTERPRETED BY GOA AS A PRESUMPTION OF UNITED STATES RESPONSIBILITY. JAPANESE CONSUL ALSO STATED THAT UNHCR IN AUSTRALIA HAS ALSO BEEN INFORMED OF THEIR PENDING ARRIVAL AT BRISBANE.

HANNAH

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